



Milford-Orange Times

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January 23, 2025

Chilly Chilli Run Rings In The New Year



The Amity Teen Center sponsored its 27th annual Chilly Chili Run on Jan. 1 at High Plains Community Center. The 5K road race, fitness walk and brunch benefits the teen center's programs. Additional photos on page 13. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Amity BOE Adds New Holidays To Calendar

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Amity Board of Education voted at its Jan. 13 meeting to add Diwali and Eid al-Fitr as new holidays to its school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

The measure, which passed 8-5, came at the behest of Amity Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars, who said that adding Eid al-Fitr had been pushed for by three consecutive student government presidents at the high school.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the

month-long Ramadan fasting period. Ramadan is one of the "five pillars" of Islam, and Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide.

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, and variations of the holiday are also celebrated by other religions of Asian origin, such as Sikhism and Jainism.

Byars had pointed out during a

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Milford Superintendent Asks For 4.87% Budget Increase

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Milford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Anna Cutaia laid out her budget priorities for the coming year during the city's Board of Education meeting on Jan. 13, calling for a 4.87 percent increase over the previous year.

The \$115,304,923 budget Cutaia proposed takes into account a number of rising costs, including salaries, benefits and transportation.

"What is trending is significant inflation

rates – significant impact on regular, household, everyday operating costs that you most likely are feeling at home. And we are most certainly not immune to that effect," she said.

Salaries and benefits, always the largest portion of education spending, would alone drive the budget upward by 2.68 percent.

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Chickadee Central



A winter bird feeder in Milford attracts multiple species of native birds, including black-capped chickadees. The chickadees live in the same area year-round, and they vary the number of "dees" in their alarm call to indicate to other birds the level and proximity of perceived dangers. Photo by Tim Chaucer.

Zillow Names Milford Most Popular Coastal City In US

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Major online real estate marketplace Zillow has named Milford as the most popular coastal city among home shoppers in the US for 2024.

"With 17 miles of coastline along Long Island Sound, the area has plenty of seaside attractions, including beaches, parks, boating and more," the company said in a release.

West Haven secured the second spot among coastal cities, with South Portland, Maine, coming in third.

The Northeast dominated the list of most popular markets overall this year, with Manchester, New Hampshire getting the top spot. Four of Connecticut's largest

cities – Bridgeport, Stamford, New Haven and Waterbury – all made it into the top 10, far outstripping any other state.

This was the second year in a row that the Northeast commanded the most attention, and the second year that Connecticut had the most municipalities in the top 10. Zillow noted that only one West Coast market managed to break into the top 10, a notable shift from that area's previous dominance in 2021.

"The majority of this year's most popular cities were exurbs – smaller towns situated beyond the suburbs yet within commuting distance of a major

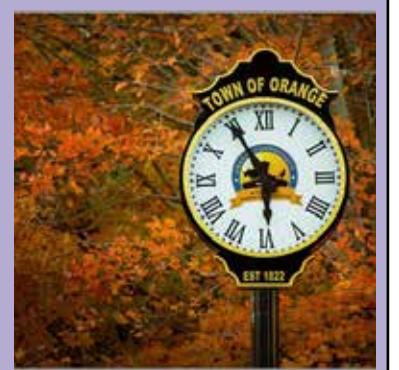
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Adopt A Pet: Fiona



Fiona is a 4-year-old tortoiseshell female cat. She's spayed and has all of her shots. She came from a condemned home. Tortoiseshell cats are considered good luck. She can be adopted from Milford Animal Control, located at 664 East Broadway in Milford. For more information, call 203-783-3279. Photo courtesy of Milford Animal Control.

Tyler City History Coming To Case Memorial

The Case Memorial Library will host a program titled "Tyler City: A Town Created by a Railroad" in the Meeting Room on Monday, Jan. 27 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. A whole city planned within Orange in the 1870s, based on the trains that passed through Orange on their way to and from New Haven. Come hear about the history of

Tyler City – the town that is only a memory – in this presentation by Ginny Reinhard, president of the Orange Historical Society. Case Memorial Library is located at 176 Tyler City Rd. in Orange. The program is intended for adults. Registration is required. More information is available at casememorial.librarycalendar.com/tylercicity.

Amity Class Of 1975 50-Year Reunion Planned

The Amity High School Class of 1975 will be holding their 50-year reunion this November. The Reunion Committee has arranged a full weekend of activities for Nov. 7-9. The highlight of the weekend will be a dinner planned for Saturday, Nov. 9 at Race Brook Country Club in Orange.

The Reunion Committee is seeking to track down all of the graduating class of 1975. Members of the class are urged to contact Mitch Goldblatt at mitchellrgoldblatt@gmail.com or at 203-535-8505 to receive the formal invitation with a complete schedule of activities.

Milford-Orange Times

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- | | | |
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| Cathy Bradley, Running | Patricia Houser, Environment | Susan Oderwald, Senior Care |
| Barry Cohen, Orange Chamber | Jennifer Ju, Facing Ourselves | Jennifer Paradis, Homelessness |
| Cyndi Consoli, Arts | Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate | Trish Pearson, Insurance |
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| Jody Dietch, ODTIC | Kevin McNabola, Orange Finances | Michele Tenney, Wellness |
| Pat Dray, Gardening | | Don Wetmore, Time Management |

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Zillow

(Continued From 1)

metropolitan area," the report said. "The increase in hybrid work models is likely contributing, leading more people to discover hidden gem cities that they may have previously overlooked when daily commutes were standard. These communities strike a balance of affordable

living and lifestyle amenities."

Zillow defined coastal cities as areas where more than half of listing descriptions on Zillow mentioned the beach, and excluded all cities that did not feature the word "beach" in at least 50 listings on the real estate service. The analysis only considered cities having a population of at least 25,000 people, according to 2022 American Community Survey data.

HEARTS FOR Milford

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Survey Seeks Input On Orange's Development

A recently-launched survey asks Orange residents, workers and others to weigh in on the priorities that will shape the town's development for the next decade.

The survey is being conducted by BFJ Planning, which was brought on by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission to help that board create a new plan of conservation and development. A POCD provides guidance for the town regarding what it would and would not like to see built there. State law requires each municipality to update its POCD every 10 years.

"The feedback collected through the survey will help identify key planning

issues and opportunities, shaping the POCD update and ensuring it reflects the needs and aspirations of the community," BFJ Senior Planner Suzanne Goldberg said in a release about the survey.

The survey will remain open until mid-February. BFJ has already held one public workshop, and will hold another in March to review draft chapters and recommendations. By June a full draft of the POCD will exist and there will be a public hearing to get additional feedback before the final plan is delivered in September.

The survey is available at surveymonkey.com/r/PQ7BVRY.

Case Memorial Program To Feature Three Generations Of Artists

Art lecturer Bob Potter will present a Zoom program sponsored by the Orange's Case Memorial Library titled "Wondrous Strange – The Wyeths: N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth and Jamie Wyeth," on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

During his lecture, Potter uses several different formats that enliven his presentation of three generations of this renowned family: he shows reproductions of their paintings but also uses videos of the artists discussing their work in order to draw his audience closer into their process. In addition, he weaves personal accounts of their lives into his lecture.

Presenting in chronological order, Potter begins with N.C. Wyeth's dynamic illustration for classic literary works such as Robert Lewis Stevenson's Treasure Island and Kidnapped.

He next explores Wyeth's son Andrew's atmospheric paintings of the people and landscapes of the countryside of Pennsylvania and the seacoast of Maine,

including the iconic Christina's World.

Potter concludes with Andrew's son, Jamie Wyeth, whose thought-provoking paintings capture "the wondrous strange" of both his father and grandfather's works in his own personal vision and style of painting. By lecturing on all three artists, Potter gives a cohesive overview of this family.

Potter is a graduate of Syracuse University's School of Visual and Performing Arts. His various careers include art director at Scholastic Magazines, marketing executive for Time Warner and National Geographic and corporate development officer for the National Gallery of Art. Currently, Potter often volunteers as a docent at the Yale Center for British Art.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at casememoriamlibrary.org or call 203-891-2170. The program link will be sent the afternoon of Feb. 6.

Eastbound Theatre Seeking Directors For Summer Shakespeare

In addition to its mainstage productions, Eastbound Theatre in Milford produces an outdoor Summer Shakespeare program, a recent addition to its repertoire. Directors are being sought for the 2026 summer production to be held at Eisenhower Park.

Scheduling will be finalized in coordination with the city of Milford, but it is anticipated that the show will go up the last weekend in July or early August and perform on

weekends.

If you're interested in directing a Shakespeare production for the summer of 2026, follow the general guidelines listed on the Milford Arts Council's page at milfordarts.org/call-for-directors/ with the caveat that only proposed Shakespeare plays will be considered.

Decisions about this production will be made after the mainstage season is announced.

Blood Drive Organized In Milford

The Connecticut Epilepsy Advocate Foundation will hold a Polar Bear Day Blood Drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The blood drive will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, located at 400 Merwin Ave. in Milford.

The Connecticut Epilepsy Advocate Foundation is a Milford-based nonprofit

that supports people with epilepsy and educates about the disease. International Polar Bear Day was created by conservation group Polar Bears International to bring greater awareness to the bears and their habitat across the Arctic.


To make an appointment with the Red Cross, go to redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.




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Opinion & Editorial

State Rep. District 119

In The Driver's Seat On State Transportation

Every day we all have somewhere to be, whether at work, a medical appointment, grocery store or school. We travel with one thing in mind: we need to arrive and return home safely.

If you're like me, you're concerned with the safety of our roads, excessive speeding, erratic driving and inattentive drivers. We have all seen the flashing sign on the interstate indicating the number of fatalities on our roadways; this is what I'm doing about it.

During my last term, I was given a unique responsibility after being appointed ranking member of the Transportation Committee. This means that as the highest-ranking Republican member, I am in charge of daily communications, research and deliberation of those bills that are related to transportation.

In my work as ranking member I was diligent in cracking down on wrong-way driving incidents, intoxicated and distracted driving,

as well as green-lighting significant improvements to our roads, rail system and statewide infrastructure. I also played a role in protecting consumer rights against the intrusive electric vehicle mandate and in supporting our state and local law enforcement as they patrol our roads daily.

Due to my success, I was reappointed to this position for my upcoming term. My priorities are simple: address rising roadway fatality rates, stand by our police and vocalize local concerns to ensure each of us always returns home safely.

I will bring attention to the increased use of marijuana while driving. It's no secret that folks are driving high and distracted, especially when we can smell it from three cars away. Sadly, even with a smell being reason-



STATE REP. (R-119)
KATHY KENNEDY

able suspicion, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle prevented us from allowing police to crack down on intoxicated driving last year, making our roads less safe.

Next, we need to give law enforcement the tools they need to protect us effectively. I look forward to proposing infrastructural changes to accident-prone roads in our state to ease the burden of our officers while also investing in life-saving technology.

My first priority will always be to listen to my constituents and make sure their voices are heard. In addition to my role on the Transportation Committee, I also will be serving as a member of the appropriations, education and public health committees. As your state representative, I encourage you all to share

your voice throughout the legislative process which begins with you and your input. Please find all details of the legislative session at cga.ct.gov.

Our legislative committees will be convening for the next two months to propose new laws which often require a public hearing. I invite all of my constituents to submit written or verbal testimony on those proposals that matter to you.

Finally, I am asking all of my constituents in Milford and Orange to please consider taking my 2025 legislative survey that can be found at RepKennedy.com/survey2025. This brief survey will help me gain an updated understanding of our ever-changing local landscape. Don't forget that my door is always open to your questions, ideas and concerns by contacting me at Kathy.Kennedy@housegop.ct.gov or at 860-240-8700.

State Rep. District 114

Legislative Committee Assignments

The 2025 legislative session has officially started, and committees are already working on the priorities and goals for this budgetary year.

Every House legislator is typically assigned to two to four committees each term. This year my focus continues to be on education, but there have been a few interesting adjustments to my schedule. In addition to serving on the Education Committee for my fifth year, I am also serving on a special select committee on special education. As one of the major costs for every school district and municipality, evaluating how our state and the federal government funds and creates policy for special education services is key for understanding how we can improve. This committee will be convening for part of the year until we create recommendations that are passed along to the Education Committee, where I will be able

to help shepherd those concepts further.

I am also reprising my role as vice chair of the Children's Committee. While I had stayed on as a committee member last term, I am excited to return to a leadership position. We will be continuing to serve as the committee of cognizance for the Department of Children and Families, and will be taking the lead on two priority bills (HB5003 and SB6) focused on early childhood education and child care.

Additionally, I have been named the Democratic House leader for the Regulation Review Committee; this committee is unique in that it meets year-round and is divided equally between both parties. Regs, as it is referred to, is the final step in enacting legislation and pol-



STATE REP. (R-114)
MARY WELANDER

icy that has made it through to the governor's desk and determines the final details of implementation. It also is unique in that policy from all state agencies that covers every type of subject matter goes through Regs, which gives the committee incredibly broad oversight responsibilities. I served on this committee in my first term and am very pleased to return and serve in a leadership role.

Finally, I will be chairing the Early Childhood Caucus, which is a bipartisan partnership between the legislature, advocates and professionals and relevant agencies. Access to child care, early childhood education and family supports is one of the main determining fac-

tors of the economic success of our communities and the success of families, particularly for women and mothers. I am honored to be leading this group to address such important issues.

With these multiple leadership roles, I know that this will be a busy and challenging session. But I am excited for these opportunities and do not take these responsibilities lightly. As the bill proposals start taking more shape, I will be sure to share some key issues that may impact our district.

Your feedback makes a huge difference in how policy takes shape, so please stay up to date on the process by signing up for my weekly emails. As always, please reach out to share your thoughts on legislation or how I can help in any way at mary.welander@cga.ct.gov.

The ERA: Will It Finally Become Our 28th Amendment?

By *Martha Schmoier LoMonaco*

Former President Joe Biden recently declared that he believes the Equal Rights Amendment has met the requirements to become the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution, though the announcement came with no formal action.

This basic human right – to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex – should be American law. Eighty-five percent of world nations have this right enshrined in their constitutions. The US does not. It's time to make that change.

The ERA, you say? That old thing? Wasn't that a done deal 40 years ago? We only wish. The only thing standing in its way – it has passed all the requirements as stipulated in Article V of the Constitution – is the national archivist, who refuses to fulfill her ministerial function of certifying and publishing the amendment.

The ERA is straightforward: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," and "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

That's the whole thing – nothing more, nothing less. The ERA would make sex-based equality explicit in the US Constitu-

tion for the first time and would prohibit discrimination "on account of sex," including discrimination against people of all genders. As the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg argued, the ERA would provide courts with "an unassailable basis for applying the bedrock principle: All men and women are guaranteed by the Constitution equal justice under law."

The ERA was written and first proposed to Congress in 1923 by Alice Paul, a leading suffragist who was instrumental in the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Paul, who had three law degrees, understood that women's suffrage was not enough; women needed to have guaranteed freedom from sex discrimination in their personal and professional lives, and she dedicated the rest of her life to making that happen. She lived to celebrate the amendment's passage with widespread bipartisan support by both houses of Congress in 1972 and its quick ratification by 30 of the 38 states, including Connecticut on March 15, 1973.

Our always-progressive state, understanding the vital importance of this law, created its own ERA the following year: "No person shall be denied the equal protection of the

law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, or physical or mental disability."

Unfortunately, an anti-ERA movement, spearheaded by Phyllis Schlafly and the burgeoning religious right of the late 1970s, slowed the momentum for additional ratifications. This, combined with an arbitrary time limit set by Congress – despite the fact that the Constitution sets no time constraints for passage of new amendments – helped to cripple the process. By 1982, with only 35 states on board, the amendment seemed to be a lost cause.

But Ginsburg's continuing advocacy, along with a new wave of women activists buoyed by the #MeToo movement and a record number of women elected to federal and state offices, revitalized interest. Three states – Nevada (2017), Illinois (2018) and Virginia (2020) – ratified the amendment, thus achieving the 38 states required.

ERA opposition was swift. The US Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, under the first Trump administration, issued a memorandum effectively prohibiting the national archivist, then a man, from

doing his job. Their argument: the deadline had expired and the amendment is "no longer pending before the states." Although the Biden administration's Office of Legal Counsel rebutted this in 2022, nothing has happened since.

US Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York made the passage of the ERA her cause célèbre in the final days of Biden's presidency. In November she authored a letter to the president, signed by 46 members of the Senate, including Connecticut Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, urging him to act immediately: "We cannot let disingenuous and deceptive arguments about procedure stand in the way of basic human rights and dignity."

I urge all of us to follow her lead. You can write or text the president via his website (whitehouse.gov) or send him a letter or postcard: President Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500.

Milford resident Martha S. LoMonaco, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita of Theatre and American Studies, Fairfield University.

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The Garden Spot

Here's To A Sustainable New Year

According to Earth.org, sustainability means “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In general, sustainability refers to the ability to maintain a process or state for a lengthy period. Over the past few years, the term has been used by all different sorts of businesses, including the food and fashion industries.

For those of us who are gardeners and stewards of the land, sustainability means we work to reduce pesticide and herbicide usage, avoid single-use plastics and in general reduce our carbon footprint.

One of the easiest ways to increase sustainability is to reduce the use of single-use plastic. I find that a reuseable water bottle

not only saves the environment but saves my wallet as well. Instead of using a plastic bag a single time, can you easily shake out any crumbs or rinse it out and reuse it? Do you need to use that straw at a casual dining restaurant? Do you need to use a plastic produce bag at the grocery store for those two lemons?

There are several trends that really support sustainable living: buying food locally, resisting “fast fashion” and replacing lawns with natural, native landscapes. I’m so happy to see a “crunchier” lifestyle being adopted even here in the Land of Steady Habits. If you haven’t been



PAT DRAY

to either the Milford or Orange farmers markets this past year, you missed a great opportunity to meet our local farmers and bakers. The variety of vendors is impressive and the quality excellent.

The rise of online clothing resellers such as Poshmark and RealReal have helped to legitimize the habit of thrifting. This is a wonderful way to reduce your carbon footprint by both selling and buying. Could you resell that wool sweater and “thrift” a new one? It is estimated by Carbonfact that 75 percent of the carbon footprint of wool comes from the “born to farm gate,” so buying used significantly reduces

your carbon footprint.

The newest landscape trend is towards naturalized spaces, or “rewilding” them. The movement away from the golf course appearance to a landscape that supports native insects and plant life creates a much more interesting palette.

If you must eliminate weeds, try digging them up or spot treating them rather than having systemic herbicides applied. Replacing turf grasses with native plants usually means less watering and maintenance and more diversity and a lower carbon footprint.

Pat Dray is a past president of the Orange Garden Club and a master gardener.

Wine Talk

Winter Wines

White wines for winter may seem to be a no-no. However, considering commonly eaten winter foods, some whites may be a great option.

Oysters are great during January, February and March. A big, hearty white wine may be an excellent match for this tasty food. Australian chardonnays are a great match for oysters. Penfolds makes a chardonnay that matches well. This is an Australian company that has been making wine since 1844. The wines are full, complete and match well with oysters and chicken, turkey or pork-based foods. They are also reasonably priced.

Another worthwhile winter white would be King Maui Marlborough Sauvignon

Blanc. This is a classic for under \$12 and matches up great with winter foods.

If you like Pinot Grigio, Lauda to is a perfect one. It is generally under \$17. Bougrier ‘V’ Vouvray Chenin Blanc from 2022 is not well known, but it is a fantastic surprise. It is a crisp, clean wine with a wonderful aftertaste. At under \$16.00, it is also a bargain.

For those who insist on reds for winter, Josh Cellars makes a Cabernet Family Reserve.

This is a North Coast wine that retails under \$20. All of the Josh wines have become



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

popular. This one is a sleeper and may head the list.

San Gregorio Single Vineyard Las Martas Garnacha is a 2021 wine that is a steal. At under \$11, this big, hearty Spanish classic is an ideal buy.

If you are looking for something special, Silver Ghost Cabernet Sauvignon is worth a try. It is a Napa Valley wine that will not disappoint you. It is priced around \$50 and will outmatch wines that are much more highly

priced.

Keep an open mind and try some of these

great winter wine treats. You will be glad you did.

Ray Spaziani is the former chapter director for 25 years of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He is a certified wine educator who worked for the American Wine Society, Amete de Vino and Winemaker Magazine judging wines and conducting wine judging. He is an award-winning home wine maker and has written wine articles for newspapers and magazines for the past 20 years. Spaziani teaches wine classes for the Milford Board of Education at Citrus Restaurant in Milford. Email Ray with wine questions and anything wine at realestatepro1000@gmail.com.

Insuring Your Future

Top Five Insurance “To Do” List Items For The New Year

As we start a new year, take time to do the following to get the most out of your health insurance benefits.

Make sure you have a current ID card. The cards may look the same from year to year if you have the same insurance. The ID number will probably also be the same, but you should receive a new card each year. Call member services if you have not received a new card to make certain your policy renewed for 2025. Some Medicare Advantage plans also issue separate “flex cards” to use for extra benefits such as dental, vision and over-the-counter items. Refer to your guide to see if this applies to you.

Set up an online account with your insurance company. All the information you need should be on your ID card or in your head. Even if you don’t have a computer,

an iPad/tablet will work, or even your phone. This will make it easier to pay premiums, check claim statuses, get answers to benefit questions and order over-the-counter items. Not sure how to go about this? Get some help from a friend, relative or call the member services number on the back of your card. They will walk you through the process.

If you have a new insurance plan, make sure to inform the pharmacy when renewing prescriptions in 2025. This is especially important if your prescriptions are on auto refill or through mail order. If you are changing pharmacies, the easiest way to make the change is to go to the new pharmacy and



TRISH PEARSON

have them request your prescriptions from the prior pharmacy.

Review prescription drugs and any copays. Rules on Medicare prescription pricing have changed. If your current plan is not a good fit, you have an opportunity to make one change in January, February or March.

Review your plan for wellness benefits and register. Many plans offer discounts on gym memberships, nutrition programs, smoking cessation, advice on managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and weight loss. Take advantage of these programs which will also provide financial rewards such as gift cards at area retailers just for answering

a few survey questions. Make appointments for annual wellness visits. All insurance plans cover a physical, and associated blood work and screenings such as mammograms and colonoscopies. The tests must be coded as screenings as opposed to diagnostic.

Make sure your vaccines are up to date. Most plans cover flu shots, COVID boosters, RSV vaccines and shingles vaccines with no copay. If you are not sure, check with your pharmacist or call member services.

Hoping all have a happy and healthy year ahead. Following these tips will make it that much easier.

Trish Pearson is a licensed independent insurance agent and certified long term care specialist. Contact her at 203-640-5969 or trishpearson281@gmail.com.

Orange Senior Center

Preserve Those Memories

This holiday season I was hard pressed to find something for my mother-in-law. My father-in-law was always easy for me. I could just get him a hardware store gift card and he would be happy. But her...well, she presented more of a challenge.

I thought long and hard on it until at last I fell upon a Facebook ad. It talked about writing and preserving your memories. I bought her a subscription. Each week she will receive an email. The email will ask a prompting question and she can reply with her written response. Questions could be as mundane as “What is your favorite ice cream?” or as thought-provoking as “How was your relationship with your father?”

I got to choose the questions that the com-

pany will email her weekly. At the end of the year, the company will compile her responses and email her a pdf of all her responses. She can look them over, make changes and finally approve the pdf. Once approved, the company will bind the questions and answers into a book that she can keep or give away.

Better yet, we can purchase copies of the book that we can give away to her children and grandchildren for next year’s presents. What I love so much about this gift is she can spend the year writing her story, prompting her to exercise her mind as she recalls her



DENNIS MARSH

life experiences.

As children, we often see our parents and grandparents through the distorted lens of youth. We age and our perspective changes with our life experiences. We often never get their perspective or get a first-hand account of our loved one’s lives.

Here is a vehicle to capture their story; to preserve a part of our family history. This may make a great gift for a birthday or any holiday, but you do not need to wait for a holiday. Here at the Orange Senior Center one of our dear friends, Trish O’Leary

Treat, leads a writing group. Her Memoirs Group writes short stories about a topic of their choosing.

You can join O’Leary Treat on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the senior lounge. The class is free. Membership to the Orange Senior Center is free to Orange residents or \$15 a year for out-of-town residents. There is so much to do at the Orange Senior Center, so come on down and try things out.

Dennis Marsh is director of the Orange Senior Center. The center can be reached at orange-ct.gov/783/Orange-Senior-Center or 203-891-4789.

Orange Democratic Town Committee

It's Time To Run

When we talk about running, we are not talking New Year's resolutions to get physically fit. We are talking about getting community fit. What better way to kick off 2025 than to consider a run for office and serve your hometown of Orange?

The Orange Democratic Town Committee Nominating Committee has begun meeting. Their charge is to build a slate of qualified, energetic candidates to run for office this November. Election day is Nov. 4 this year.

We just finished an election, you may be saying. True. Every year there is an election. The odd years, such as 2025, are municipal (town) elections. This is our opportunity to choose who will lead not only the town but the boards that have significant influence in

determining the future of Orange.

Yes, the position of first selectman is up for reelection, as are the town clerk and tax collector. These are all paid positions. In addition, representatives will be elected for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Orange Board of Education, Amity Board of Education, Town Plan & Zoning Commission and constables, who help collect back taxes.

If you have ever even thought about it (or maybe if you haven't), now is the time to consider a run for office and give back to Orange with your time.

What's involved? Running for office does



JODY DIETCH

take time. If you are truly committed to run and make a difference, time is what you will need to commit to more than anything else.

Our Nominating Committee chair is Melissa Johnston (she is also vice chair of the ODTC). Johnston can be reached at 203-520-0331 or via email at msmejlissajohnston@gmail.com. Feel free to reach out to her to learn more. That email or phone call doesn't commit you to anything.

The ODTC Nominating Committee is also working to schedule an information session later in February where anyone can come

and learn what it means to run for office from people who have done it, do it regularly and have won their seats. Watch OrangeCT-Dems.org and OrangeCtDems on Facebook as well as the Milford-Orange Times for more information.

Have questions or suggestions? We love questions and suggestions. Reach out to Johnston or reach out to me at 203-314-9975 or via email at JLDOrange@yahoo.com. We look forward to working with you.

Jody Dietch is the chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee.

Recycling Tip: Loads Of Laundry

By Susan Wineland

If there is something we all do, it's laundry. With this new year can come new incentives to incorporate environmentally solid choices in our homes.

When it comes to something mundane such as laundry we have the opportunity to choose a wide range of great sustainable products – those that don't use harmful plastics and chemicals and that don't contribute to polluting the air, the water and the food we eat.

Take plastic laundry jugs. The primary problem is their environmental impact, stemming from their production, use and the disposal. A significant number of these laundry jugs end up in landfills, contributing to plastic pollution and environmental degradation. The production of plastic jugs requires resources like petroleum and water, and their disposal adds to the landfill burden. Only a small percentage of plastic laundry jugs are recycled, further exacerbating the waste problem. Their production contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and the manufacturing process (which uses fossil fuels) contributes to air and water pollution.

These plastic jugs can also leach harmful chemicals into the environment during

their production and disposal. There are some potential health concerns because some detergent jugs contain chemicals like bisphenol A and phthalates that can pose health risks. Exposure to these chemicals may disrupt hormone levels and increase the risk of cancer and reproductive issues.

Avoid buying a jug of laundry detergent; there are other much safer options available. If you absolutely must purchase one, make sure to rinse it out completely and recycle it with your weekly blue bin pickup or at your local transfer station.

Laundry pods are also problematic because they are often made with polyvinyl alcohol and are considered environmentally harmful due to the microplastics released when they dissolve. PVA can also absorb harmful chemicals and contaminants, potentially bioaccumulating in the food chain and posing risks to aquatic life and humans. PVA doesn't biodegrade readily, leading to its persistence in the environment and potential for long-term harm. Microplastics from laundry pods can contaminate drinking water sources, potentially impacting human health; they can harm marine life, contaminate water sources and disrupt ecosystems. They have been found in human breast milk and drinking water, potentially posing health

risks. Conventional wastewater treatment facilities may not effectively remove these microplastics.

Laundry detergent sheets are a plastic-free, convenient, eco-friendly and space-saving solution compared to traditional liquid detergent in plastic jugs. Most of these sheets come in compostable or recyclable packaging. Some of the many brands include Hey Sunday, Earth Breeze, TruEarth and Ecos.

If you prefer a more traditional type of detergent, explore refillable laundry detergent options or consider using powdered detergent in a box. Boxes are very recyclable.

Fabric softeners and dryer sheets, while offering a soft feel and pleasant scent, can be detrimental to your health and your clothes. Their fragrances and softeners contain chemicals that can build up on clothes and irritate sensitive skin and make towels less absorbent. Dryer sheets are single-use products, contributing to landfill waste. The chemicals in dryer sheets can release volatile organic compounds into the air when heated in the dryer.

Fabric softener can build up in the detergent drawer and other parts of the washing machine, causing clogs and other maintenance issues. It also can diminish the

flame-retardant properties of children's clothing, making it more dangerous. Fabric softener chemicals can contaminate water sources, impacting aquatic life and ecosystems. The plastic packaging and non-biodegradable ingredients contribute to plastic waste and pollution.

To avoid fabric softener or dryer sheets, add a cup of white vinegar to your laundry cycle to neutralize odors and soften clothes. Vinegar can also break down detergent and mineral residues that can make clothes stiff and rough. Or add half a cup of baking soda to your laundry to neutralize odors, brighten whites and soften fabrics. You can also apply baking soda directly to stains or mix with water for spot cleaning.

When drying clothes, toss a few wool dryer balls into the dryer to soften clothes and reduce static. Maybe add some drops of your favorite essential oil to them for fragrance. Allow clothes to air dry naturally to soften them and reduce static. Crumple a sheet of aluminum foil and add it to the dryer to reduce static cling.

While we all have laundry to do, we can make some good resolutions to use products that don't harm ourselves, our families and our environment – and contribute to a healthier new year.

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Orange Republican Town Committee

New Year's Resolution: Get Involved

As we usher in 2025, I want to wish all residents a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. The arrival of a new year is often marked by joyful celebrations followed by a brief, reflective pause before spring renews our energy and the months begin to fly by.

For me, the new year is a favorite time – a season to recommit to what matters most in our lives and to begin painting a new masterpiece on the blank canvas of possibility.

Of all the 21 Januarys I have experienced, none feels as exciting as January 2025. This year, we are not only recommitting ourselves to personal goals and cherished causes, but as a nation we also turn the page on four challenging years and renew our collective mission to restore American greatness. In a historic moment, for the first time in nearly 130 years, a former and future president – Donald J. Trump – will place his hand on the Bible and take the oath of office as the 47th president.

As I have done for every incoming president in my lifetime, I will pray for President

Trump. I pray for his ability to fulfill the mandate entrusted to him by the American people, for his success in uniting the country, and for the health and safety of Trump, Vice President JD Vance, First Lady Melania Trump, Second Lady Usha Vance and their families. Regardless of your political views or thoughts on the incoming administration, I encourage everyone to join in praying for the future of this great nation. Together, we can hope for a brighter chapter ahead.

Turning our focus closer to home, it is now time to prepare for the 2025 municipal elections. Every two years, the residents of Orange head to the polls to elect the leaders who will guide our town. While local elections are often overshadowed by national contests, they are profoundly important. Local governments shape the public safety, schools, roads and zoning policies that im-



DOMINICK LOMBARDI

pact our daily lives more directly than federal policies ever could.

As you set your New Year's resolutions, I encourage you to add this one: Get involved in local elections. These elections have real consequences, and your voice can make a difference.

This will be my first municipal election cycle as chairman of the Orange Republican Town Committee. In the previous cycle, I was honored to serve as the chairman of the ORTC's Election Subcommittee under my predecessor, Chairman Pio Imperati. That experience showed me the tremendous work that goes into running elections and supporting candidates. Now, as RTC chairman, my primary focus is to lead our party in reelecting First Selectman James M. Zeoli, alongside the Republican slate of candidates who have delivered two decades of success for Orange.

Under Republican leadership, Orange has

achieved economic growth, a AAA bond rating, top-tier schools, robust open space preservation and countless other accomplishments that have made our community a great place to live, work and raise a family. The ORTC will begin regular meetings this year to prepare for November's critical election, and we need the help and support of all residents who believe in the vision we have for Orange.

To all residents – longtime and new – my New Year's message on behalf of the ORTC is this: If you look around Orange and like what you see, if you believe in preserving what makes our community special, then in November, vote for Jim Zeoli and the Republican team. Together, we can keep Orange thriving for generations to come.

I wish you all a wonderful year filled with opportunity, growth and community spirit. Let's make 2025 a year to remember.

Dominick Lombardi is the chair of the Orange Republican Town Committee.

Rotary Club of Orange

Exciting Events Ahead With Orange Rotary

As the president of the Rotary Club of Orange, I am thrilled to announce that we are kicking off the new year with enthusiasm and a commitment to serving our community. We have an exciting lineup of events planned that not only promise fun but also aim to raise funds for important local projects.

First up, we invite families to join us for our inaugural bingo night later this month. This event is designed for families to come together, enjoy some quality time and compete for fun prizes, all while supporting our community initiatives. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with neighbors and make lasting memories.

In addition to bingo night, we are gearing up for our Day of Service, where we welcome

community members to roll up their sleeves and join us in making a positive impact. This is a wonderful chance to engage with fellow residents and contribute to projects that enhance our community. Watch the Milford-Orange Times as well as the Rotary website at rotarycluboforange.org for updates on the date and time for this event.

We are also hard at work planning our Summerfest, aiming to make it bigger and better than last year (fingers crossed for good weather). This beloved event is a highlight of our summer and brings together families and friends for a day of music, food trucks, fun and festivities.



WENDY BARRY

Mark your calendars for our annual Rose Sale in May, along with many other community activities that we have in store. These events not only support our projects but also foster a sense of camaraderie among residents.

For those interested in learning more about our club, we invite you to visit one of our meetings. We gather at Chips Family Restaurant on the second Thursday of the month for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Our monthly social takes place on the third Thursday at 5 p.m. at a local restaurant/bar, where you can enjoy

happy hour specials in a relaxed atmosphere. In January we are gathering at On the Border for happy hour specials. Finally, on the fourth Thursday of the month, we meet for lunch at the library at 12:15 p.m., often featuring an engaging speaker.

If you're curious about what we do and how you can get involved, please reach out to me. Together, we can make a difference in our community while having a great time. Join us in our mission to serve and connect. We look forward to welcoming you to the Rotary.

Wendy Barry is the president of the Rotary Club of Orange Contact her at Wendy@wbarryrealtor.com.

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Are You Really Prepared For House Hunting?

The current housing market is so competitive with low inventory that getting ready to purchase a home, whether buying for the first time or not, needs major strategy.

The preparation needed to jump into the real estate market is in many ways standard and does not change much, but key components can make all the difference. There is not a lot of time between seeing a new listing and deciding if that is where you want your next home to be.

That being said, the process will be much clearer if you are ready with all your thoughts and needs straight in your mind.

The first step is finding a lender that you feel comfortable with. Keep in mind this does not necessarily mean your brother-in-law, for example. Keep a focus on the bigger picture. Just like with choosing your real-

tor, a lender will hold your hand through the entire process. Trusting your choices means you will listen to their advice and direction, which is important.

The listing agent who receives your offer will be also scrutinizing your choices of lender and realtor, as to their reputation and strengths. Strong lender and realtor contacts are the first order of business when preparing to purchase any home.

Even if you have a cash deal ready, without realtor supervision set up properly, and the where and when of the independent funds you are professing to use, you may risk not getting the deal. A deal can be strong when there is no mortgage involved, but it has to show proof of the funds and the timing of



BARBARA LEHRER

their availability.

Build a budget if you are new to the market. Figure out what you can spend comfortably and consider the taxes of different towns, as they vary widely and can affect your monthly expenses a lot. Explore programs for types of loans and check on closing costs. Your realtor knows good lenders from experience and can be a great resource. You

must complete a preapproval so that you have a good letter to submit with all your offers.

Sit down and determine what your needs are. This is an important part of ownership.

What is it you always wanted? Make a list and speak to your realtor about mistakes to

watch out for. Typically, a home inspection should never be a question. Get an inspection; if the seller says no to it, that is a red flag.

Realtors have a tendency to try to help a seller, telling them to invite removal of contingencies such as appraisals, inspections and mortgage dates that are realistic. As a buyer, be careful and be conservative. It is okay if you miss one deal; the market is more realistic now.

Spring – the busy season – is around the corner. Call me with questions and concerns, I write these columns to remind all my readers that I care, I have 40 years of experience and I want to help.

If you need more information on these issues, email Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com.

Book Reviews

The Extraordinary Life Of Sam Hell By Robert Dugoni

This novel is beyond extraordinary.

Sam was born with ocular albinism – red eyes. While Sam's father accepted his condition, his deeply religious and Catholic mother attributed it to God's will and took it as a sign that Sam will have an extraordinary life.

Life for Sam was indeed hell. Initially rejected by Our Lady of Mercy, the local Catholic grammar school, Sam's mother (who had a deep devotion to the Virgin Mary) contacted the media outlets in their area to publicize Sam's plight. On the surface media coverage was a good idea.

Through no fault of his own, Sam incurs the wrath of his school's principal, Sister Beatrice. Sister Beatrice does not agree with Sam's mother's firm conviction that Sam will have an extraordinary life.

Being different in grade school can be frightening and lonely. Sam's eyes isolated

him from his peers and made him a frequent target of the school's bully, David Bateman, who was an unrelenting presence in Sam's life.

Sam's school life improved dramatically when two new students, Ernie and Mickie, began attending the school. Misfits in the eyes of the other students and some of the nuns, the trio formed an unbreakable bond in that they all had differences that excluded them from being accepted. Ernie was the only Black student in the school and gravitated immediately toward Sam. Mickie had a horrible home life, which led to disgusting rumors and vicious lies about her reputation.

The three drew strength from each other, not only emotionally but practically. Sam was intellectually gifted and assisted Ernie



CARMELA DEVITO

and Mickie with their schoolwork. Ernie was a talented athlete who had his choice of colleges when the time came. No one could intimidate Sam when Ernie was around. With her feistiness, Mickie turned into Sam's protector, providing him a refuge from those who are unable to see past Sam's eyes and fail to realize what an amazing person he really is.

With college finished and his career as an ophthalmologist set, Sam begins treating a young girl whose visual problems were caused by a traumatic event rather than illness. When Sam learns who is responsible for the girl's injury, he sets a plan in motion that has wide-reaching effects.

The one constant in Sam's life is his

mother and her deep devotion to her Catholic faith and the Virgin Mary. Sam's casual acceptance of Catholicism becomes more pronounced when his mother becomes ill. Knowing his mother's strong faith and belief in God's will, Sam, his mom, Ernie and Mickie make a pilgrimage to Lourdes to visit the site the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette. Sam hopes that the healing waters of Lourdes provide both his mother and himself a degree of comfort.

There is so much to love in this book: unshakeable faith, loyalty, devotion and the enduring bonds of friendship resonate beautifully.

Carmela DeVito, a voracious reader, is a retired social worker and a member of the Friends of the Milford Library.

Orange Holding Preschool Lottery

The Orange elementary school system is now accepting names for the blind lottery to enter its 2025-2026 preschool program.

The special education/general education integrated program is looking for both 3 and 4-year-olds to enroll as community peers.

The total cost of tuition for the community peers is \$3,250. The preschool program is held five days a week for three hours each day. No transportation is provided for general education community peers.

The program follows the district's school year calendar: the morning class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon class is held from noon to 3 p.m. Each classroom is a blend of 3 and 4-year-old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students, which includes special education students. By law, students with special needs identified with an individualized education program are placed in the program by the Department of Special Services through the Planning and Placement Team process.

In order to participate in the lottery, a


child must be 3 years old but not older than 4 by Sept. 1. All children must be toilet trained and Orange residents.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. First, all names are randomly selected by age group for the limited number of available spaces, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list. Then a second drawing determines which children will be admitted to the morning or afternoon classes to balance each classroom by age.

To enter a child in the blind lottery, call the Special Services Department for

the Orange Board of Education at 203-891-8023 between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Names will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Parents will be mailed a letter of the lottery results by Feb. 7.

A non-refundable tuition deposit of \$170 is due by Monday, Feb. 24 to reserve the child's space. The deposit will be deducted from the total cost of tuition; the remaining tuition due will be paid in eight equal payments of \$385 from October through May. Registration paperwork needs to be completed by March 24.




FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

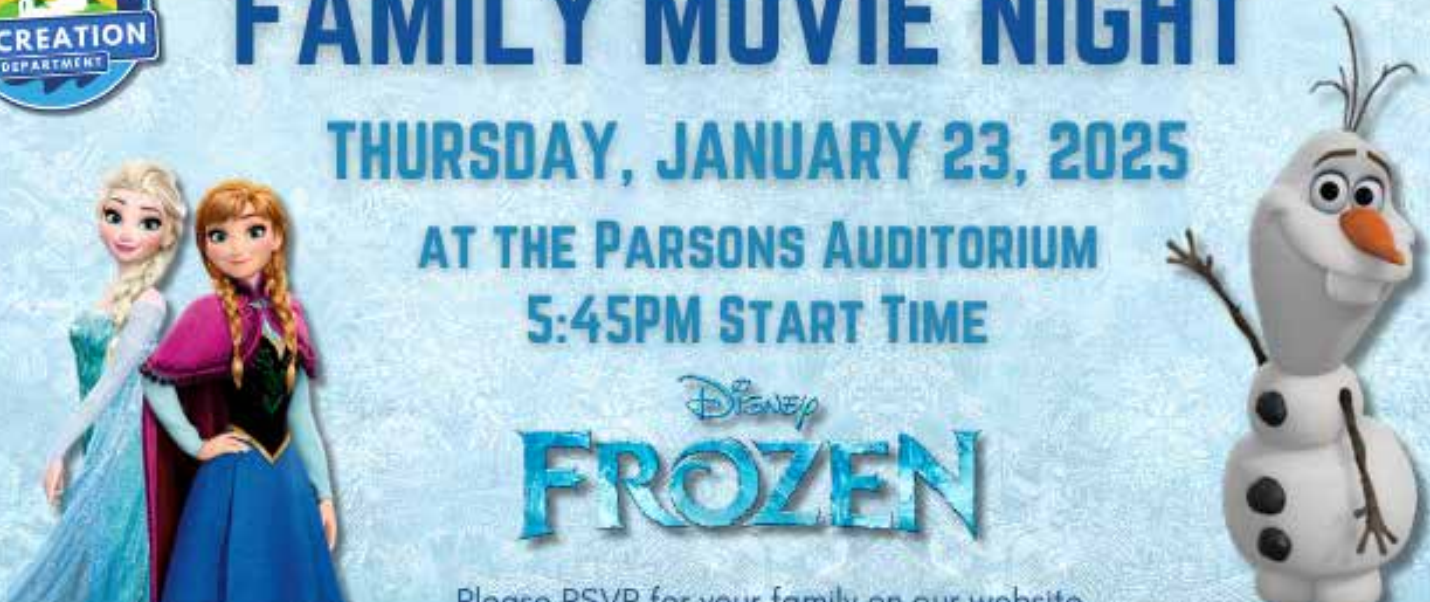
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Your Health

Understanding Norovirus Outbreaks

If you've been keeping up with the non-political news lately, you may have noticed a surge in norovirus cases across the US. For many, the term "norovirus" brings to mind outbreaks of diarrheal illness on cruise ships. However, these recent outbreaks are occurring in a variety of settings and are not confined to the ocean.

At least 80 people became ill in December after consuming raw oysters linked to a norovirus outbreak at a restaurant event in Los Angeles. The oysters, sourced from British Columbia, Canada, were distributed to 14 states and the District of Columbia before being recalled. Following the outbreak, the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning advising against eating these contaminated oysters.

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus responsible for 58 percent of foodborne illnesses in the US. It spreads rapidly through contaminated food, surfaces or direct contact with infected individuals. It causes symp-

toms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, fever and body aches.

Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, explains that norovirus is exceptionally contagious due to two key factors: its ease of transmission and its resilience on surfaces, where it can survive for days or even weeks. People can become infected through contact with an infected individual, consuming contaminated food or water or touching contaminated surfaces. This high transmissibility makes norovirus particularly problematic in crowded, indoor environments such as cruise ships, nursing homes, schools and day care centers.

Research has highlighted that contaminated water, especially untreated sewage, can introduce norovirus into the food supply via irrigation. Shellfish like oysters and mussels



DR. AMIR
MOHAMMAD

are frequently implicated in outbreaks since they filter water to feed, accumulating concentrated levels of bacteria and viruses in their tissues.

Good hand hygiene is the best line of defense against norovirus, but relying solely on hand sanitizers isn't enough. According to Schaffner, the virus's structure makes it less vulnerable to alcohol-based sanitizers and wipes. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is significantly more effective at removing the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention particularly advises handwashing after using the restroom, changing diapers, before preparing food or administering medication.

There is currently no antiviral treatment for norovirus infections. Physicians typically advise patients to stay home from work or school and focus on staying hydrated by

drinking plenty of fluids. Most cases of norovirus resolve on their own within a few days without the need for medical intervention.

Certain groups, including young children, older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems, are at greater risk of severe illness due to the likelihood of experiencing dehydration. Symptoms of severe dehydration can include fatigue, dizziness and irritability in children. In more serious cases, hospitalization may be required for intravenous fluid administration to restore hydration and prevent complications.

The rise in norovirus infections highlights the importance of food safety measures and vigilance in identifying and managing outbreaks to prevent further spread. The situation also underscores how easily this highly contagious virus can infiltrate food supplies and affect public health.

Dr. Amir Mohammad is the Director of Public Health for the town of Orange.

Time Management

Defeating Delays

We all encounter delays that keep us from doing what we planned to do. Life is often what happens to you along the way when you are planning otherwise.

We can be delayed in traffic, waiting for the dentist, in an airport or in a line at the bank. You can't always control what happens to you out there, but you can exercise control over how it will impact you. You do not have to let delays defeat you.

Here are six tips to defeat those delays.

1. Do not get frazzled. A lot of people use their delay time for being crazy. Look around when you are delayed and see how others are reacting. They may be screaming, hitting the steering wheel and flailing about. They are fulfilling their crazy time. When your flight is delayed or you are stuck in traffic, the delay is upon you and there is little you can do about it. There is much you can do to avoid

being caught up in a similar delay in the future, but for now, when you are delayed, you are delayed. You being upset about it, telling yourself that this should not be happening, only makes a tough situation worse. You are not only delayed but are unhappy too. Your unhappiness will not make the delay shorter.

2. Bring important projects with you. Always have stuff with you that you can work on if you experience a lengthy, unexpected delay. Perhaps a work project or two, some business reading, your laptop or the envelopes for your Christmas card list. If you get delayed, it gives you the option of making what could be wasted time into productive time.

3. Bring an unread book or two or more on your electronic reader. Many of the books



DON
WETMORE

people purchase are never completed. Why? Because we do not have the time to read. If your flight is delayed for three hours, you can read a lot of pages in that book you purchased but never seemed to have the time to read.

4. Bring more than your contacts on your phone. Think ahead of where you are going and ask yourself what telephone numbers that are not in your contact list would be useful if you were delayed. Friends? Family? Business associates? Your travel agent? Make sure you have these telephone numbers with you so when you get delayed, if you can access a telephone, you give yourself more choices to be productive.

5. Bring some entertainment. What do you like? Are you into crossword puzzles? Crafts? Tablet video games? Movies? If you are prepared for it, delay time can be playtime.

6. Sit and think. In our hurried-up world we have little time just to think about our lives, where we have been, where we are now and where we are going. Use delayed time to reflect upon your life and celebrate the good things that are happening and commit to changing what needs to be improved.

Don Wetmore is a certified business coach and the author of "The Productivity Handbook" and "Organizing Your Life." Contact him at 203-394-8216 or ctsem@msn.com.

On Our Land

It's Always Summer In Google Maps

Navigating from point A to point B has never been easier since tools like Google Maps, Waze and others have appeared. Most of us rely on them when planning a trip, driving and rerouting around traffic slowdowns or using mass transit. I even use them when walking in unfamiliar cities.

I prefer Google Maps, in part because I like the features that are embedded in its desktop version – especially a growing number of varied map views and interactive tools. While driving and using the cellphone app, I select the default view with a real-time traffic overlay. But at home on a large monitor, I dwell on terrain and satellite views.

Terrain maps are shaded relief maps that highlight features with noticeable slope changes, like ridgelines. They are computer generated using elevation data with no vegetation or structures present and artificially shaded by assuming the sun is illuminating the ground at a low angle. The source for both default and terrain maps is the National Map, a digital repository prepared by the US Geological Survey that describes the landscape and cultural features of the US.

Satellite views combine multiple types of imagery of the land surface from specific dates and times as captured from satellites, as well as flight-based aerial photographs. Google satellite views also show bathymetry (depth

measurement) beneath the oceans prepared from sonar data. I appreciate the underwater data, even though I know an Uber driver can never take me to the edge of the continental shelf.

Google does not collect imagery data but displays compilations from many government and private sources, both from the US and other countries. There are more than 10,000 satellites currently orbiting Earth, and while most are for communication, several thousand continually observe the land, sea and atmosphere and stream that imagery to ground-based data centers.

Some data is proprietary or classified for military use, but much is available to the public. In Google's case, a firm called TerraMetrics compiles its wide-area satellite images.

There also are state repositories of aerial photographs of land surfaces dating back a century that provide more detailed closeup information. These photos, along with satellite images, collectively comprise Google's "satellite" views. As you zoom out, the view switches from air photo to satellite image, with each selected to emphasize present-day features.

One idiosyncrasy of Google's satellite views at our latitude is that they always dis-



DAN
MAY

play images obtained around noon in early summer. At that time the sun is high overhead, shadows are at a minimum, illumination is even, and vegetation records recent vibrant spring growth. What is shown is a pleasant midday summer view, selected without a cloud to be seen. I wish that weather scenario was always the case.

However, you can purchase your own images from TerraMetrics for any season over the past few decades. Two satellite systems – Copernicus and Landsat – provide much of that imagery. Copernicus is European sponsored, while Landsat is a joint NASA/USGS mission with satellites that have been continually scanning Earth since 1972. The land observation satellites of both missions orbit from the north to south pole and back again, constantly imaging the daytime surface as Earth rotates beneath them. They capture images of the same location about every two weeks. That means TerraMetrics has many image dates to select from.

More significantly, this and other satellite data over the past 50-plus years provide the most comprehensive record of global environmental change that is available. Changing vegetation, land use, cloud and snow cover are

readily measured. Some of these changes can be reviewed at eros.usgs.gov/earthshots and earthobservatory.nasa.gov/global-maps.

The town of Orange contracts with an imagery broker that can highlight your own or other properties at hosting.tigebond.com/orange_public/. Milford's is at <https://milford.mapxpress.net/>. Use is free, and once you type in an Orange property street address and click on the "layers" tab, you are able to view a range of map overlays with property boundaries, including Google satellite views as well as detailed aerial photographs of Orange from different years dating back to 2012.

The aerial photos are wintertime views, and a bit gloomy with pronounced shadows given the low sun angle. But there are no leaves on trees to hide views of buildings, pavement surfaces, fences, property lines, rooftops, parked vehicles and other human artifacts. These photos track features and changes that help reevaluate property and related insurance risks. Note that the photos selected by the office of a tax assessor or insurance underwriter, perhaps anticipating homeowner remorse when their bills arrive, are always of winter.

Dan May can be contacted at capemay2013@gmail.com.

For more local coverage, go to milford-orangetimes.com

Orange Board of Finance

Debate On Fiscal Guardrails Likely This Legislative Session

With the 2025 legislative session recently begun, there is sure to be a growing debate between the state legislature and the governor over the so-called “fiscal guardrails.” Many state lawmakers in both the House and Senate say the guardrails are too restrictive.

I have spent close to 20 years in the corporate world and 15 years in public finance where fiscal discipline and delivering bottom-line results are expected. It is refreshing to see a governor who actually understands the importance of the fiscal guardrails, which have led to paying down over \$8 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and saving taxpayers roughly \$700 million over the course of the next 25 years.

The fiscal guardrails were implemented in 2017 in a compromise between Democrats and Republicans that not only included new caps on spending and borrowing, but also included two programs that forced lawmakers to save more within the volatile income tax receipts tied to capital gains and other investment earnings. These reforms, coupled with a booming stock market, helped Connecticut boost its rainy day fund from about \$213 million to \$3.3 billion. The guardrails have also led to recognition from Wall Street and upgrades to Connecticut’s credit rating over the last six years.

For the first time in several decades, Connecticut is finally on the path to fiscal sustainability. However, lawmakers within the state legislature are now looking to tweak and adjust the guardrails to provide flexibility to fund nonprofits and increase education spending to municipalities. Most school districts throughout the state are now facing a fiscal cliff since millions of dollars provided to the schools by the pandemic-era American Rescue Plan Act are now fully obligated and no longer available.

State lawmakers were close last year to a tentative deal that would use a mix of borrowing and reallocating non-recurring federal pandemic aid for operating expenses, which is highly risky because it creates potential gaps within the expenditure side budget in future years.

Gov. Ned Lamont has been willing to negotiate with the legislature, but has good reason to be cautious on agreeing to any workaround on the fiscal guardrails. Growth within both the US and Connecticut economy is starting to show signs of slowing, and sales tax revenues are projected to fall off in coming months.



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Lamont seems to be holding firm, for now, on his commitment to preserving the guardrails passed in 2017 and unanimously renewed in 2023 by the state legislature through 2028. This renewal is enforced by bond covenants, which requires Connecticut to use spikes in volatile revenue sources for budget reserves or to pay down debt.

State revenues continue to exceed expectations. However, most of the growth is coming from quarterly income and business tax receipts, which are covered by a volatility cap that prevents them from becoming part of the general budget. If the state legislature decides to take any action on adjusting the volatility cap, they should wait until 2028 when the bond covenants expire; this is important because the state’s credibility with Wall Street and the ratings agencies and bond investors would be in jeopardy.

The Governor’s position on preserving the guardrails is the right approach. Budget gimmicks, some of which have been proposed by the state legislature to get around the caps, introduce new spending that would only create unsustainable spending growth.

This would affect the ability of Connecticut residents to pay for state services and bring the state back to the old way of doing business, with unbalanced budgets and deficits.

Critics of the fiscal guardrails within the legislature have been arguing for years that they are too restrictive. In recent years, many within the House and Senate have insisted on carrying forward a portion of the annual surplus into the next fiscal year’s budget.

I believe the governor and the legislature need to continue to work together in a bipartisan manner to continue Connecticut’s path to fiscal sustainability and continue the practice of paying down our pension debt and creating job growth. It is important to stay within the spending cap and adhere to the fiscal controls that were implemented.

Connecticut has come a long way in eight years, working to remedy the sins of the past several decades of financial mismanagement. The state has sent a strong signal that Connecticut is serious and committed to fiscal reform.

Kevin McNabola is the chief financial officer for the city of Meriden and a member of the Orange Board of Finance.

Travel Matters

Small Ship Cruising In America

Last month, we were invited to tour one of the new 100-passenger Coastal Cats of American Cruise Lines, the largest river and small ship cruise line in the US with headquarters in Guilford.

The American Legend was docked in Marco Island, a stop en route from St. Petersburg round trip to Key West (overnight), with stops in Punta Gorda, Marco Island and Fort Myers on the way back up to St. Pete. Most of their cabins are 300 square foot balconies. They also practice a local culinary philosophy – cruise local, eat local. Our menu included Marco Island jerk grouper and sweet potato bread pudding.

The Coastal Cats also circumnavigate the state of Florida from Amelia Island to St. Petersburg and offer another sailing on three rivers in Florida. This is perfect for Floridians who don’t want to fly, or for others looking to seek warmer destinations or perhaps

see more of Florida before they decide on a retirement location.

Under the leadership of the ship’s new CEO, American Cruise Lines has recently expanded to 19 small ships on over 50 itineraries in 35 states along the Eastern Seaboard (Maine to Florida, Hudson River and Chesapeake Bay) and the Western Seaboard (including Alaska and Puget Sound) as well as the Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers and the Columbia-Snake rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

Andrea Mullen, one of my clients, said her May 2024 trip on the Columbia and Snake rivers was a great experience. “The scenery was comparable to our trip around South America. The cabins were spacious and the food well prepared. Multnomah Falls was



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spectacular, and we had magnificent views of Mt. Hood and St. Helens,” () said.

The popularity of Pacific Northwest wineries has led to 11 new themed Vineyard Cruises on this itinerary for 2025.

In addition, American Cruise Lines now offers visits to over 12 national parks including a cruise and land package to Denali on select Alaska sailings on the 170-passenger American Constellation. There is a brand new

Legendary Parks and Rivers 16-day cruise and land package that starts or ends with the Columbia-Snake River Cruise and includes stays in Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

This year starts their expansion of Eastern Seaboard cruises on their new Patriot Class

of ships. The new class of ships will have a deeper draft for sailings along the Eastern Seaboard for a comfortable journey even in varying sea conditions. These luxury ships offer 100 percent private balcony accommodations for up to 130 guests across five decks.

Something special to note: There is a new 11-day American Revolution sailing round-trip from Washington, DC where you can explore the towns and historic cities that shaped our nation, including Colonial Williamsburg. This could be perfect to celebrate our the 250th anniversary of US independence coming up in 2026. American Cruise Lines is currently offering free airfare and savings up to \$1,200 on select 2025 dates.

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com or 203-647-3107.

Here’s To Your Health

Over 40 Is Not Over The Hill

Aging is a blessing because the alternative is that we don’t. Aging gracefully is subject to perception, but aging in good health is the best way to grow older altogether.

Women all experience what I call the “changing of the tides” at different ages in different ways with different symptoms. Menopause can be very difficult for some, feeling like a tsunami has hit them, while others experience tiny waves of discomfort. Regardless of the levels of discomfort, there are things you can do to help yourself along the way.

First and foremost, recognize the foods you eat will play a large role in how you feel. Foods high in fat, complex carbohydrates and processed foods will only exacerbate discomfort like bloating, hot flashes and night sweats. Eating clean is key to reducing menopausal symptoms.

Exercising is paramount to helping your body combat these symptoms as well. Getting a good cardio workout will not only help you reduce symptoms, but it will also release endorphins to help you with any depression or anxiety that comes with the territory of

low estrogen.

Increasing hydration is essential for keeping your skin from drying out and helps with giving your body the nutrients it needs, all the while keeping your digestive system moving properly.

I am a firm believer in prevention being the first approach to wellness rather than a cure once a problem or disease settles in. My 11th-generation great grandfather, Louis Herbert, was the first apothecary in Quebec. Long before any pharmacies were established, he healed people with food, herbs and oils. We too can start that route first before moving to more aggressive alternatives. I recently read an article in Life Extensions magazine regarding fenugreek seed extract supporting healthy estrogen levels and easing common discomforts of menopause. Modern science has confirmed the findings and the benefits. One study showed fenugreek extract significantly reduced hot flashes, night sweats, de-



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pression, sleep problems and more.

In my career, when it comes to aging and some of the discomforts that come along with that, I often hear my clients say, “oh well, it’s just part of getting older.” I disagree wholeheartedly. There are things we can do and paths we can take to combat those discomforts. We aren’t meant to live with them. That is not how we were created. Our bodies naturally want to heal. When we sleep the body repairs cells, releases hormones and proteins and nerve cells reorganize to support healthy brain function. These are things our bodies do without our permission, so it’s really up to us to pitch in and make good decisions in supporting our well-being.

In this new year, you’ve been given a great opportunity to start something new in the way of making tiny decisions towards better health and to understand you are worth every bit of effort you put into taking care of yourself. You are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body, and you were created for a purpose

to do great things while here on this Earth. I encourage you to discover something in your inner self that makes you giggle from the inside when you think about it. Start there.

We can all get caught up in the rat race of life – my challenge to you this year is to slow down, smell the roses and do one thing every day that makes you happy. Be intentional about yourself, being grateful for the people dearest to your heart and maybe make some tiny changes or perhaps even large changes that enrich your life for the better. No decisions based out of fear have ever turned out to be good ones. I believe in you, but it’s more important you believe in yourself. Here’s to your health: spirit, soul and body.

Michele Tenney is a Certified Personal Trainer and Nutritionist & Wellness Coach. She is a member of the Orange Board of Health. Her website is www.elevatePTW.com. She can be reached at 203-668-2969 or email at Hmgbrd3@gmail.com.

For Nature's Sake

Clearing The Air On Indoor Wood Stoves

When one person's fireside ambiance, complete with indoor wood stove, results in a smoke-filled plume over the house next door, is there any real harm or is it just bothersome? If there is harm, what responsibilities do individuals, neighborhoods and governments have? How might the whole situation be avoided?

A range of experts, from public health officials to industry representatives, can agree on a few points: If people knew a bit more about wood stoves and followed safe burning protocols there would be fewer noxious plumes.

An overarching concern over this source of residential heat is the potent mix of toxic chemicals and small-particle pollution, called PM2.5, emitted with every burn. Research shows there are no truly safe levels of exposure to PM2.5 pollution, and the American Lung Association tells people to avoid using wood-burning stoves or fireplaces altogether, "unless it is a primary heat source."

According to experts, those who must use an indoor wood stove should use safe wood-burning practices, which starts with the use of an Environmental Protection Agency-certified stove. The US government first set standards for residential indoor wood stoves in 1988, and EPA certified woodstoves today are far less polluting than older models.

The problem is, there's no nationwide requirement to replace old stoves with new ones, and so 65 percent of wood stoves in US homes are uncertified and inefficient.

For a glimpse of what some communities

are doing to address that problem and more on safe woodburning practices, health impacts, and regulations consider the questions and answers below:

1. True/False: If you can smell wood smoke, you're breathing pollution that is hazardous to your health.

2. Fill in the blank: The PM2.5 emissions from one old dirty, inefficient wood stove is equivalent to the PM2.5 emission of _____ old diesel school buses.

- a) one
- b) two
- c) four
- d) six
- e) eight

3. Which of the following, if burned in an indoor residential woodstove will cause extra pollution?

- a) Wet wood
- b) Unseasoned wood
- c) Trash
- d) Building materials
- e) All of the above

4. True/False: The PM2.5 pollution from wood smoke can enter buildings through closed windows.

5. According to the EPA, those most vulnerable to health risks from smoke pollution, include which of the following?

- a) People with asthma and other respiratory diseases



PATRICIA HOUSER



- b) People with cardiovascular disease

- c) Children under 18
- d) Pregnant women
- e) Older adults
- f) Outdoor workers
- g) All of the above

6. True/False: Emissions from EPA certified models of wood stoves are 70 percent lower than those manufactured pre-1992.

7. Which of the following policies and laws is enforced within Connecticut's borders?

a) Residents who participate in state supervised disposal of their old, uncertified woodstove can get a state tax rebate for buying a new, EPA certified model.

b) When a house is sold, all used, uncertified wood burning stoves on the property must be removed and destroyed.

c) It is illegal for a company to sell wood stoves that are not EPA certified.

d) "No person shall sell, offer for sale, or supply any wood which orally, or in writing, is advertised, described, or in any way represented to be 'seasoned' or 'dry' wood unless the wood has a moisture content of 20 percent or less by weight."

8. Which of the following public officials is supposed to take the lead in evaluating risks to public health and directing enforcement measures in the case of wood smoke pollution that is a threat to health?

- a) The local director of health
- b) The director of public works
- c) The open space and sustainability manager
- d) The head of the department of planning and zoning

Answers:

1. True. This fact is found on the websites for FamiliesforCleanAir.org and the State of Oregon Environmental Council and is supported by research on PM2.5 pollution.

2. e. This fact is cited on the EPA's "Burnwise" website. The EPA adds, among other things, "Residential wood smoke emits five times more PM2.5 pollution than petroleum refineries, cement manufacturers and pulp and paper plants combined."

3. d. All of the above.

4. True.

5. g. All of the above.

6. True. This widely cited fact is also in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's online 2024 press release about best wood burning practices.

7. c. Starting in 2020, it became illegal in the US for retailers to sell older, non-EPA certified wood stoves nationwide; this policy is enforced in Connecticut. (People in Connecticut may still inherit or buy, at a garage sale for instance, the older stoves.) Letter

a. is a policy from the state of Idaho; b. is a rule in several places, including Mammoth Lakes, California, Washoe County, Nevada and the state of Oregon; and letter d. offers the exact wording of a law from the city of Sacramento, California.

Other government policies on limiting woodstove emissions around the country include subsidies for some and full grants for low-income families to swap out older stoves with newer, cleaner models of indoor wood stoves. In Washington state, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency also sends wood moisture meters to community members – further encouraging residents to only burn dry (20 percent or less moisture) wood.

8. a. The director of health.

When contacted for his input on the subject of smoke pollution from wood stoves, Orange Director of Public Health and Milford-Orange Times columnist Dr. Amir Mohammad agreed "it is an important topic to inform/educate our public." He also quoted the document, "Response to Wood Burning Complaints in Connecticut," and a section that begins, "From the start, all local health directors should know they have clear legal authority to enforce a wood smoke complaint when it constitutes a public health nuisance."

While most homeowners in Connecticut do not rely on wood for heat, it is still the largest source of residential PM2.5 pollution in the state in wintertime. We all have a stake in pursuing policies and community conversations on the topic.

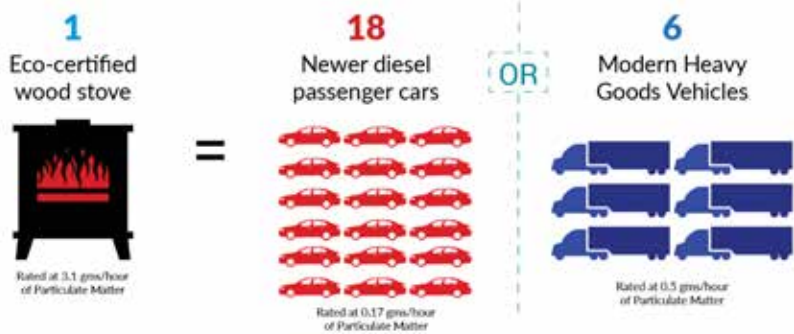
For owners of woodstoves, two highly recommended websites are the EPA's "Best Wood Burning Practices" and the CTDEEP's "Wood Burning in Connecticut." Video lessons on best practices and factsheets can also be found at the EPA's "Burnwise" website.

There are also experts from the local private sector to learn from: Katherine Hilditch, office manager at Total Chimney Care in Milford, was a helpful resource for this column on the importance of chimney design, maintenance and yearly inspection, a crucial side of safer, cleaner, operation of wood stoves. And Nicholas Vernucci, owner of Fireplace Etc in Milford, described, among other things, federal tax credits one can get with the purchase and installation of certain very low emission wood stoves.

When Vernucci was asked if there is something that woodstove owners should know to help them limit smoky burns, he observed good-naturedly that people would be greatly helped by "reading the manual."

Patricia Houser, PhD, AICP is a freelance writer and researcher focused on environment and sustainability.

All Wood Stoves Pollute
Even a perfectly-run, certified wood stove emits far more harmful fine particulates per hour than many diesel vehicles



Data from: "Potential Air Quality Impacts from Business Combustion", Air Quality Expert Group (UK), 2017

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Milford Solar Project Gets Financing

The Connecticut Green Bank recently announced that Milford Holdings LLC closed on C-PACE financing for a 1.1-megawatt solar project at their property at 80 Wampus Ln. in Milford.

The tenants on-site include both industrial and manufacturing operations. The total gross installed costs are approximately \$2.2 million and the estimated energy revenue for the ownership over the next 20 years will surpass \$4 million. The project participated in Connecticut's Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions program, through which the utility company will buy the produced electricity from the property owner.

The system will generate approximately 1.1 million kWh annually, which equals a carbon reduction of 785 metric tons, or the carbon offset of 1,025 acres of forest.

In Connecticut, the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program has surpassed 400 closed projects for more than \$300 million in total investment. C-PACE

is administered by the Green Bank and is specifically designed to finance green upgrades, including energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy sources, and projects to increase resilience.

"I'm pleased with our decision to utilize the C-PACE program to finance our solar project at 80 Wampus Lane. The process was straightforward across the multiple partners involved. Additionally, the Green Bank worked efficiently to close C-PACE financing allowing us to begin saving energy," said Ahron Rosengarten, the project manager working for the property ownership.

"Commercial property owners' interest in adding large solar systems to their roofs continues to remain strong in Connecticut," said Mackey Dykes, vice president of financing programs at the Green Bank. "C-PACE was designed to allow these projects to make financial sense in addition to the positive environmental impact."

The Arts

Create And Celebrate With The Arts

There is so much to celebrate and enjoy in the next few weeks. Have you made a resolution to learn something new this year? Take a workshop and learn to draw, paint or create puppets and tell stories with art. Be inspired by the offerings of the arts community during Black History Month, purchase tickets to enjoy a candlelight concert, take the kids to see magical classic shows and create a shadow puppet show. Treat yourself to a concert with a full choir, listen to the sounds of a full orchestra and venture out to see some of the most moving, comedic and musical shows from around the area. It's a new year, and the arts community offers unique ways to create new memories and traditions.

Firehouse Gallery (the MAC) is hosting a six-week **Beginner Drawing Class** with Joe Adiletta on Tuesdays through Feb. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Firehouse Gallery, 81 Naugatuck Avenue in Milford. Learn and practice fundamental drawing skills in a fun and nurturing environment. This six-week class is for those with little or no drawing experience and focuses on understanding and building fundamental drawing skills. Individual attention and critiquing are provided to each student. The cost for the six-week course is \$90 general, and \$72 for MAC members. Registration is required. For further information visit milfordarts.org or call the box office 203-878-6647.

Hartford Symphony Orchestra presents **"The Fierce Urgency Of Now: MLK Tribute Concert"** featuring conductor Carolyn Kuan and soprano Schauntice Marshall on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave. in Hartford. Experience an inspiring evening as the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is honored with music and reflections that echo King's vision of equality, hope and a brighter future for all, together in a setting that invites reflection and community. This concert is free and open to the public. Reservations are recommended by visiting hartfordsymphony.org or calling 860-987-5900.

The Mystic Museum of Art will host **"Artini: Flowing Colors: The Art Of Paper Marbling"** with Carol Mann on Jan. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 9 Water St. in Mystic. Paper marbling, an art first seen in 10th century Japan and introduced to Europe 500 years ago, allows the ability to create beautiful, unique patterns on paper. In this class, each participant will float modern pigments on slightly thickened water and transfer them onto paper. The result is a one-of-a-kind piece that can be used for bookbinding, scrapbooking, paper folding or frame as artwork. Join in and discover the beauty of this fascinating craft. This class is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Register online by visiting mysticmuseumofart.org or calling 860-536-7601.

Saybrook Stage Company presents **"The Tin Woman"** by Sean Grennan with matinee and evening performances from Jan. 23 to 26 at the Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, located at 300 Main St. in Old Saybrook. Based on a true story, "The Tin Woman" tells the story of Joy, a young woman struggling with the aftereffects of her heart transplant. With encouragement from a friend, Joy decides to track down the donor's family to find closure for herself but instead finds a family still struggling with the tragic loss of their loved one. This inspiring story reminds us of the power of forgiveness, acceptance and human con-

nection. This beautiful, contemporary play uses humor, emotion and insight to explore the themes of loss, family and what it means to be given a second chance at life. Tickets are \$17-\$29 and can be purchased at thekate.org or by calling 860-510-0473.

The Yale University Art Gallery will hold a **monthly family day of storytelling and art** beginning Jan. 26 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yale University Art Gallery, located at 1111 Chapel St. in New Haven. Families are invited to join for folktales, myths and exciting stories from around the world that highlight objects in the collection and inspire children of all ages to view art in new ways. No registration is required. Meet by the couches in the gallery lobby. For more information visit artgallery.yale.edu or call 203-432-0601.

Curtain Call presents **"Steel Magnolias"** by Robert Harling, with matinee and evening performances through Jan. 26 at the KweSkin Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave. in Stamford. The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in Louisiana where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Filled with hilarious repartee and humorously revealing banter, the play also has a more poignant side which gives the play and its characters the special quality to make them touching, funny and amiable in good times and bad. Tickets are \$23-\$100 and are available at curtaincallinc.com or by calling 203-461-6358.

The Milford Arts Council's Eastbound Theatre presents **"My Children! My Africa!"** by Athol Fugard and directed by Nolle Fair with performances Jan. 31 through Feb. 15 at 40 Railroad Ave. South in Milford. Athol Fugard is an internationally acclaimed South African playwright whose best-known work deals with the political and social upheaval of the apartheid system in South Africa. In this drama, education, not violence, is the answer. Generational conflict over the most effective means for ending apartheid in South Africa leads to an explosive confrontation between a gifted but impatient black township youth and his devoted but "old-fashioned" black teacher. The unexpected involvement of a young white woman who befriends and learns from both men strips away the political trappings to reveal the human trauma at the heart of South Africa's tragedy. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased by visiting milfordarts.org or calling 203-878-6647.

Westport Community Theatre presents **"Pride and Prejudice,"** adapted by Jon Jory and directed by Mark Frattarolli, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 16 at the theater located in the lower level of Westport Town Hall at 110 Myrtle Ave. in Westport. Based on Jane Austen's classic 1813 novel about love, marriage and social status, this adaptation brings all the wit and romance of Austen's story to the stage in a refreshingly fast-paced and engaging manner. Finding a husband is hardly Elizabeth Bennet's most urgent priority, but with four sisters, an overzealous match-making mother, and a string of unsuitable suitors, it's difficult to escape the subject. When the independent-minded Elizabeth meets the handsome but enigmatic Mr. Darcy, she is determined not to let her feelings triumph over her own good sense – but the truth turns out to be slipperier than it seems. This drama is brought to life and reimagined on a nearly bare stage,



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in modern dress. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office at 203-226-198 or visiting westportcommunitytheatre.com for more details.

CT Art Trail presents **"Arwe Journey: Twentieth-Century Afri-Caribbean Migration"** by the artist Iyaba Ibo Mandingo through Feb. 21 at the Housatonic Museum of Art, located at 900 Lafayette Blvd. in Bridgeport. Have you ever wondered about the stories of the Windrush Generation? In this exhibition, the artist Iyaba Ibo Mandingo tells the story of the Afri-Caribbean migration to Europe and North America in the twentieth century through his paintings and sculptures. In his 61-part painting series, *Arwe Journey* depicts the history of the Windrush Generation as inspired by Jacob Lawrence's *Great Migration* series and August Wilson's plays. He pays special homage to the incredible strength and impact of Black women who he credits as nurturers, survivors and leaders in his life and beyond. Admission can be bought separately or purchased in an annual CT Art Trail passport-journal which offers free admission to all 24 CT Art Trail museum sites. The passport unlocks hundreds of dollars in value through discounts, gifts and other benefits. Visit ctarttrail.org to purchase online or in person at any CT Art Trail member museum. For more information on this event only, visit housatonicmuseum.org or call 203-332-5052.

The Bushnell presents **"Peter Pan,"** the hit Broadway musical written by Larissa FastHorse with music by Morris Charlap and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh. The play is directed by Emmy winner Lonny Price with choreography by Lorin Latarro. Matinee and evening performances run Feb. 4 to 9 at William H. Mortensen Hall, 166 Capitol Ave. in Hartford. Based on the play by Sir James M. Barrie, this high-flying musical has been thrilling audiences of all ages for close to 70 years and is now being brought back to life in this new adaptation. The adventure begins when Peter Pan and his mischievous sidekick, Tinker Bell, visit the bedroom of the Darling children late one night. With a sprinkle of fairy dust and a few happy thoughts, the children are taken on a magical journey they will never forget. This extraordinary musical full of excitement and adventure features iconic and timeless songs, including "I'm Flying," "I Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up," and "Neverland." Tickets start at \$29 and can be purchased at bushnell.org or by calling the box office at 860-987-5900.

New Haven Symphony Orchestra presents **"The Ordering of Moses"** with Perry So, conductor and music director on Feb. 9, 3 p.m. at Woolsey Hall, 500 College St. in New Haven. There will be special guest performances by Amani Cole Felder, soprano, Krysty Swann, mezzo-soprano, Albert Lee, tenor and Kenneth Overton, baritone. The show features the Fairfield County Chorale, Heritage Chorale of New Haven, New Haven Chorale and Nathaniel Gumbs, organist. The program will include Robert Nathaniel Dett's "The Ordering of Moses" with Fela Sowande, "Go Down Moses," by Florence Price, "Finale from Sonata No. 1" and Carl Haywood's "We Shall Overcome." In 1937, NBC began a live radio broadcast of Black American composer Robert Nathaniel Dett's "The Ordering of Moses," but mid-performance NBC cut the broadcast feed, giving in to complaints from outraged listeners. Experience Dett's full-length oratorio – per-

formed without interruption – and find out why some think this might be the greatest American choral work of all time. Tickets to this concert start at \$15 for adults. Children under 18 years of age are admitted free of charge with the purchase of an adult ticket. Visit newhavensymphony.org or call 203-865-0831 to purchase tickets.

Yale Opera presents **"Iolanta"** composed by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and libretto by Modest Tchaikovsky with two performances, on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Shubert Theatre, 247 College St. in New Haven. Metropolitan Opera conductor J. David Jackson leads the Yale Philharmonia and an exciting young cast in this lush opera of a romantic fairy tale about the transformative power of love. This is a lyric opera in one act and was the last opera Tchaikovsky composed. Tickets are \$17-\$71.40 and can be purchased online at shubert.com or by calling 203-624-1825.

Center Stage Theatre presents **"Guys and Dolls"** with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows with matinee and evening performances from Feb. 15 to March 2 at Center Stage Theatre, located at 54 Grove St. in Shelton. Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, *Guys and Dolls* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer Adelaide laments that they've been engaged for 14 years. Nathan turns up fellow gambler Sky Masterson for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. From the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, to the sewers of New York City, eventually everyone ends up right where they belong. For tickets visit centerstageshelton.org or call 203-225-6079.

David Southorn, concertmaster and principal violinist for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, presents a candlelight concert on Feb. 28 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, located at 5 Hillhouse Ave. in New Haven. Experience a candlelit performance led by Southorn and featuring NHSO strings while immersed in the beautiful surroundings of New Haven's historic St. Mary's Church. This soaring program will take you on a flight of imagination with music inspired by birdsong, including "The Lark Ascending" and "The Goldfinch Concerto" featuring the NHSO's principal flutist, Mira Magrill. Serving as artistic director for this program, Southorn will play the solo violin lines and conduct the ensemble from his position in the violin section. His recent solo highlights include performances of Beethoven's Violin Concerto with the Fremont Symphony, Aaron Jay Kernis' AIR with the New Haven Symphony and Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the Delaware Symphony. As a chamber musician he has performed with his award-winning Amphion String Quartet at Alice Tully Hall as members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS II. Tickets to this concert start at \$15 for adults. Children under 18 years of age are admitted free with the purchase of an adult ticket. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting newhavensymphony.org or calling 203-865-0831.

Cyndi Consoli is an actor/director in her eighth term as President and Producer for Orange Players. She can be reached at TheOrangePlayers@gmail.com and 475-227-7547.

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What if you could connect with hundreds of local entrepreneurs, gain crucial exposure for your small business, learn from established industry leaders and tap into marketing channels that reach nearly 20,000 people each week, all for about the cost of a cup of coffee a day? That's exactly what the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce offers.

For as little as \$35 a month, you're not just buying into a membership – you're making an investment in your own success. At a time when small businesses face more competition and economic uncertainty than ever, joining the chamber can be a game-changer. Here's why.

Networking That Works: The chamber hosts five active networking meetings every week, providing consistent, high-value opportunities to connect with peers, potential clients and strategic partners. It's an effortless way to share ideas, find collaborators and learn best practices from those who've been in your shoes.

A Calendar of Events: If you like staying busy, the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce

has you covered. We average 50 ribbon cuttings each year, celebrating new businesses or expansions in the area. We also host 12 community concerts, drawing residents from around the region and putting sponsors front and center. And let's not forget the regional "best of" competition, which gives local businesses the chance to shine and claim top honors in their industries.

Weekly Reach in the Thousands: One of the biggest challenges small businesses face is getting their name out there. Thanks to the chamber's weekly newsletter, which reaches nearly 20,000 subscribers, members gain a powerful marketing platform. Add in the chamber's top-tier digital engagement metrics – ranking in the top five of chambers across the country – and you have a built-in promotional vehicle that's hard to beat. Whether you're a bakery, a tech startup or a local contractor, the chamber helps amplify your message and brand recognition.



MICHAEL MOSES

Education and Resources: Running a small business can feel like juggling a hundred responsibilities at once. The chamber understands that, offering workshops, "lunch and learn" sessions and extraordinary events designed to keep you informed. Whether it's financial planning, digital marketing or team leadership, these educational opportunities give you the tools to grow and adapt in a constantly changing marketplace.

Community and Credibility: When customers and other businesses see that you're a Chamber member, it instantly elevates your credibility. It signals your commitment to community engagement and ethical business practices. Plus, the chamber actively advocates for local enterprises, championing policies that help small businesses thrive.

Think of your \$35 monthly investment as a strategic spend that pays dividends in visibility, referrals and growth. If even one of those new connections turns into a loyal customer or

a worthwhile partnership, the return on investment is clear. Meanwhile, you gain invaluable camaraderie, expert advice, and a platform to showcase your business.

In a fast-paced, digital world, local connections still matter. Being part of a robust, respected business community can open doors you never knew existed. The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is more than just a networking hub; it's a support system, a marketing resource and a force for economic development in our region.

If you're looking for a simple, cost-effective way to grow your business, raise your profile and align with a network of driven professionals, consider joining the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. The \$35 a month you spend now could very well be the best investment you make all year.

Michael Moses is the president of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-878-0681 or mmoses@milfordct.com.

Orange Chamber of Commerce

An Expo, Expansion And Eating Indian Cuisine

Over 300 attendees made their way to the Orange Chamber of Commerce's Health and Fitness Expo on Jan. 11 at the Courtyard by Marriott on Marsh Hill Road. It was a phenomenal three hours of networking, food, raffles, giveaways and unity in the community.

On behalf of the chamber Board of Directors, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the exhibitors, chamber members, residents and businesses throughout Orange, the Amity region and New Haven County who turned out in force. No threat of snow was going to keep this group from keeping fit and having fun.

A sold-out and bustling hall was comprised of 35 exhibiting businesses. The exhibitors represented diverse health and fitness areas, from food and drink to fitness centers to therapies to energy efficiency and health insurance providers, optometrists, chiropractors,

recreational facilities, salons, senior services and more.

Thank you to our event sponsors who made this event possible, including platinum sponsor the Regional Water Authority; gold sponsors, including Planet Fitness – Orange; Charter Senior Living of Orange; United Illuminating/Southern CT Gas Company; Coastal Bridge Advisors, formerly known as TrinityPoint Wealth; and Courtyard by Marriott. I also extend thanks to state Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Orange Selectman Mitch Goldblatt and Woodbridge First Selectman Mica Cardozo for joining us.

A sampling of the hundreds of photos taken by Robert Creigh, chamber intern Oda Ajabe and me can viewed on our Facebook page at facebook.com/OrangeCTChamberofCommerce. While viewing the fantastic



BARRY COHEN

photos, please like, share, and follow us.

2024 was a gold medal year, with membership that expanded by over 32 percent since July 1. We closed out December with four new members, including Planet Fitness – Orange, Prindle Hill Construction, Pickle Spot and Transformation Strength & Wellness.

In just the first two weeks of January, we kicked off with three new members, including Meli Garthwait of Coldwell Banker Real Estate, Camp Cedarcrest and Royal Spice Fine Indian Cuisine.

Contact me at director@orangectchamber.com if you would like to join our growing team of businesses, nonprofit organizations and community leaders that are engaged in

making the Amity region and New Haven County a place to work, live and thrive.

And speaking of starting the new year with "spice," mark your calendar for the Royal Spice grand opening celebration on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 85 Boston Post Rd. An official ribbon-cutting will take place at 4:30 p.m. The ribbon-cutting will be followed by a free open house celebration. The public is invited to indulge in an authentic Indian cuisine buffet. Register at lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/5ebbsy6. Operated by co-owners and veteran restaurateurs Jijin Jimmichan and Vigil Padinhare, the restaurant offers authentic Indian cuisine.

Barry Cohen is the executive director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Contact him at 203-795-3328 or director@orangectchamber.com.

Chilly Chili Run Rings In The New Year



The Amity Teen Center sponsored its 27th annual Chilly Chili Run on Jan. 1 at High Plains Community Center. The 5K road race, fitness walk and brunch benefits the teen center's programs. Photos by Lexi Crocco.

**Advertise In The Milford-Orange Times.
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Mary L. Tracy Kindergarten Registration Open

Mary L. Tracy School in Orange is now open for kindergarten registration. Mary L. Tracy School is home to all kindergarten students in the town.

If you are a resident of Orange and your child is turning 5 on or before Sept. 1, it is time to register for kindergarten. Register by Feb. 28 on the district's website at oess.org to begin the initial contact form for registration.

If your child will be 5 years old between Sept. 2 and Jan. 1, 2026 and you would

like them to be considered for kindergarten registration, you may request a waiver by sending a written request to Mary L. Tracy School Principal Elaine Watson at ewatson@orange-ed.org. Once a request is received you will be sent confirmation of your request. An appointment will then be scheduled for your child to be screened for early entry. The screenings will be done in February. After the assessment has been conducted you will be notified if your child is able to attend kindergarten.

The Greater New Haven Probus Club Launches Shoe Drive

The Greater New Haven Probus Club is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through March 11 for area communities.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes by contacting Gnhavenprobus@gmail.com.

Peck Place Students Donate To Animal Shelter

The Peck Place Student Council in Orange recently held a donation collection to benefit the West Haven Animal Shelter. They collected over 500 items, from food

to toys to beds. The officers thanked the children and said that they were very grateful for all of the items donated.

Milford Registrars Of Voters To Hold Annual Canvass

The Milford registrars of voters will conduct an annual canvass of voters with mailings to Milford voters beginning on Jan. 29. The canvas is required by state law. Voters are asked to verify the information

and return the form within 30 days. If the addressee no longer resides at the address, do not open envelope. Write "return to render" on the unopened envelope and return it to the postal carrier.

Registration Open For eesmarks Student Contest

Registration is open for the 20th annual eesmarks student contest, run by Energize Connecticut, which is sponsored by energy companies Eversource and Orange-based Avangrid subsidiaries United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas.

persuasive letter (grade 6), comic strip (grade 7) or social media post (grade 8).

The contest invites Connecticut students in grades K-12 to answer grade level-specific prompts on how they would promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable solutions.

Students in grades 9-12 will produce a persuasive image in words or pictures, such as a short poem (125 words or less) or cartoon strip (12 cells or less) that advocates for an energy topic. Entries will be evaluated based on scientific validity and concise and convincing imagery.

This year, in addition to student entries, teachers are invited to make a video or song alongside their students addressing why saving energy is important.

Contest registration is open until March 21. Project submissions are due on March 28. All work must be completed by the individual submitting the entry. No group projects are being accepted.

Students in grades K-8 are asked to submit their entries in the form of a poster (grades K-2), limerick (grade 3), outdoor billboard (grade 4), fictional story with an energy-saving character (grade 5),

Finalists in all categories and grade levels will be honored at an awards ceremony to be held in May. Winners will receive a certificate and an Amazon gift card.

For more information about the contest, visit EnergizeCT.com/student-contest.

Yoga Studio Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary



The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting on Jan. 10 to celebrate the five-year anniversary of Just Be Yoga and Wellness, located at 234 New Haven Ave. in Milford. Included in the photo are Mayor Tony Giannattasio, left; owner Melissa Andreson, center with her family; and MRCC Director Simon McDonald. Photo by Robert Creigh.

Post University Hires Orange Resident To Lead Admissions

Post University recently announced that it has appointed Orange resident Jason Riendeau as the director of admissions.

experience in undergraduate, graduate and international admissions. Prior to joining Post, he served as director of admissions at Albertus Magnus College. Riendeau entered academia as an admissions counselor, quickly advancing through leadership roles because of his innovative recruitment strategies.

Riendeau will oversee the recruitment and enrollment process, developing strategies to attract and admit qualified students while ensuring diversity and alignment with institutional goals. He will manage the admissions staff and collaborate with various departments to promote the university and its programs.

Riendeau earned his master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of New Haven.

Riendeau brings nearly two decades of

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Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce
WHERE BUSINESS CONNECTS

Milford Concert Band Plays Holiday Show At Mall



The Milford Concert Band entertained holiday shoppers at the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford on Dec. 23. The band is comprised of volunteer local musicians. *Photos by Robert Creigh.*



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Amity (Continued From 1)

previous discussion on the calendar in December that there is a limit to how many holidays the school calendar can accommodate.

“There is a danger in that. I know our students mentioned that several neighboring school districts that currently have Eid off, they also have Three Kings Day off. We have a large Greek Orthodox church in our community. They celebrate Easter and Good Friday on a different day,” she said. “We have to have a tipping point of when there is a large enough groundswell for adding another holiday.”

To that end, BOE Chair Paul Davis asked the board’s Policy Committee to review the policy governing changes to the school calendar so that it could provide recommendations for possible revisions that would give the board “better direction in planning for future years.”

Eid in 2026 happens to fall on a professional development day for the elementary schools in the member towns of Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge. However, that coincidence will not occur every year.

The Amity schedule does not perfectly align with the vacation schedules for the elementary schools on other dates as well. Some board members worried that calendar misalignments could put extra strain on parents with children in both systems.

“I think it’s only fair to those families and those communities that our middle schools and that our high school align with those [elementary school] calendars,” board member Dana Lombardi said. “If not, there are a lot of problems that arise with kids being in school and not being in school.”

Board member Carol Oladele pointed out, however, that the Amity calendar would not have been aligned with the elementary schools regardless of whether the holidays were recognized.

“This request started a few years ago and came from our students. We heard from the larger community,” she said, adding that she would support it.

Board Treasurer Michael McDonough cautioned that adding holidays prior to revisiting the policy seemed a backward way to do things. He suggested that a survey of member towns be conducted, as has happened in other nearby school districts.

“Okay, you give these two holidays, but now you can’t extend the school year anymore, so anybody coming next gets nothing,” McDonough said. He noted as an example that Three Kings Day was gaining traction in many area school systems.

“I think we had a tremendous outpouring of people here speaking about what we should do with our calendar at the last meeting,” said board member Patrick Reed, “and I think it’s important for us to listen to that and make the decision about what’s best for the Amity district.”

The current student government had also requested the Chinese Lunar New Year be added to the calendar.

The best-known Lunar New Year is the one celebrated in China, where it is a major holiday. Other cultures have similar celebrations, but use differing criteria with varying dates, including Buddhist and Hindu calendars from South and Southeast Asia as well as Jewish and Islamic calendars from the Middle East.

Board member Donna Schuster moved to recognize the Chinese New Year, saying that it happened to be a day off for winter recess in 2026 anyway. Davis, however,

said it would be inappropriate to add because the district does not note other holidays that fall on days when school is not in session. Christmas and New Year’s Day, for instance, fall during holiday recess and are not listed on the calendar.

Milford Education (Continued From 1)

The board also recently negotiated its first new bus contract since the pandemic, pushing transportation costs for regular and special education up by \$1.4 million – a 22.5 percent increase from the previous year.

Milford is facing a number of other budget pressures. The American Rescue Plan Act funding that had propped up many schools around the country since the pandemic has dried up, leaving all districts with less wiggle room. Other federal entitlement grants are also not keeping up with rising costs.

Milford has been forced to update its curriculum and materials to conform to the requirements of the state’s Right to Read law, adding another unavoidable \$346,660 cost.

On a separate but related track, education officials are considering how to pay for major upgrades needed to school buildings around the city, all of which are over 50 years old. The Board of Education has developed five options for the facilities and has been holding meetings in recent weeks to get input from members of the community.

Those options include continuing “as is” with two high schools, three middle schools and eight elementary schools; reducing the number of elementary schools to six; keeping two high schools but reducing the middle schools to two; adding a third,

specialized high school while reducing the middle schools to two; and consolidating the high schools to one and consolidating the middle schools to two.

Though some of the plans could reduce spending over time, all of the options require multiple millions of dollars in renovations or construction. A community survey showed support for slowly replacing the buildings. Cutaia has estimated that it could cost about \$90 million for an elementary school and \$200 million for a high school.

“This budget does not meet the needs of our facilities – our infrastructure,” Cutaia said, citing the ongoing discussions over the long-range plans. “So not only are we not transferring end-of-year spending to the facilities department, we’re also underfunding them. It’s a little bit of a double-whammy.”

Cutaia said that the budget pauses the purchase of many new technologies or new musical instruments, largely because operational costs were crowding out other types of requests.

“While this budget doesn’t propose anything flashy and cool and new, this budget does propose moving forward and continuing good work for kids and for staff members,” Cutaia said.

Cutaia’s proposal will in no way be the last word on the budget. The Board of Education will hold multiple workshops before approving a budget. After that it will also go through the Board of Finance and the Board of Aldermen before being adopted sometime in late spring.

The Board of Education has been at loggerheads with the Board of Finance over the budget for the last two cycles, with the finance officials cutting millions off the proposal each time. In 2023, the Board of Aldermen restored the funding; in 2024 they left the cuts in place.

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Obituaries

Full obituaries and pictures (if provided) of the deceased are on our website at www.milford-orangetimes.com and are published at no cost to residents of Milford and Orange.

Mary Catherine Altieri, age 48, beloved wife of 24 years to James Altieri of Milford, entered peacefully on December 28, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



of 24 years to James Altieri of Milford, entered peacefully on December 28, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)

Leonore Argraves, 88, of Milford, beloved wife of Lawrence "Larry" Argraves, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



of Milford, beloved wife of Lawrence "Larry" Argraves, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

William J. Auger, III of Milford, CT passed away peacefully on December 16, 2024, exactly three years and one day after his beloved wife of over 50 years. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



of Milford, CT passed away peacefully on December 16, 2024, exactly three years and one day after his beloved wife of over 50 years. (Cody-White Funeral Home)

William "Bill" S. Babcock, 80, of Milford, beloved husband of 54 years Barbara Babcock, passed away on January 4, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Joseph A. "Jay" Borelli, 63, of West Haven, passed away unexpectedly on January 6, 2025, while traveling back from Europe with his wife.



Raymond N. Boufford, 85 of Milford, beloved husband of MaryAnn Boufford, passed away on January 10, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



James Thomas Brown, age 82, of Milford, beloved husband of Mary Cosentino Brown, passed away on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Donald F. Clark, 92, of Orange passed away January 14, 2025 at the Whitney Center in Hamden. (Proto Funeral Home)



Daniel Hudson Cummings was born on October 6, 1993 and passed away on January 9, 2025 at age 31. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



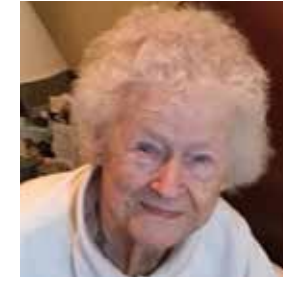
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of **Cynthia Romayne DeLuca (Wolfe)** of Milford at the age of 83. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Bryan L. Dolinski, a lifetime resident of Milford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on December 21, 2024, following his battle with early onset Alzheimer's disease. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Dolores Edwards, age 102, longtime resident of Milford and beloved wife of the late Leroy M. Edwards, died on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Helen Boni Fisher, 96, of Milford passed away on December 23, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



David Allan French, 80 of Milford CT, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)





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Obituaries

Donald Geary, 79, of Orange, beloved husband of Diane Geary, passed away on December 22, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Marie Phyllis Rossi Barba Hadjiconstantinou, 82, of Milford, passed away on December 18, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Ernest A. Judson, Jr. age 91, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Helen M. (Lariviere) Judson, entered into peaceful rest on December 15, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Jedidiah John Mohring, age 50, of Milford, passed away on January 7, 2025 after bravely battling heart disease. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



John Gillen, age 90, of Milford, beloved husband of Janet McCallum Gillen, died on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Nancy Ellen Hall, age 73, of Milford, entered peaceful rest on December 12, 2024 surrounded by her loved ones. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Frank A. LaManna was born on March 26, 1931 and passed away on January 16, 2025 at age 93. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Diana Nytko, beloved wife, mother, and accomplished professional, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2025 at the age of 82. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Nannette Auletta Giovine, wife of the late Joseph Giovine, died peacefully and with dignity in her home on December 24, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Robert Edward Hubbard, Jr., (Bob) of Milford passed away on December 15, 2024, at Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT. 29, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Frank W. LaSella of Milford passed away on December 18, 2024, at Lord Chamberlain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Stratford, CT after a long battle with dementia. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Margaret O'Neill, age 94, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Arthur O'Neill, Jr. entered peaceful rest on January 12, 2025 at the Arden House in Hamden. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Richard N. Granese Sr. age 85 of Milford CT. and loving husband of the late Martha M Granese passed away peacefully in his home Saturday December 21, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Monica Lee Judge, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and community volunteer, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2025, at the age of 74. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Geraldine Ann Mazzatti, 77, longtime resident of Milford, beloved wife of the late Nicolas Mazzatti and former wife of the late Daniel Sorbo, passed away on Jan. 6, 2025. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Gloria Ann Parker, 63, of Milford, a woman whose warmth, creativity, and joyous spirit touched countless lives, passed away on January 7, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her beloved family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



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Obituaries

Nellie Peters, 57, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Chris Peters, passed away on December 20, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



John S. Scalici, longtime resident of Milford Connecticut, passed away peacefully on December 15, 2024 at the age of 89 surrounded by his loving family. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Karen Ann Petro, 76 of Beacon NY, passed away peacefully on December 17, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Johanna A. Shultis of Milford, passed away at Bridgeport Hospital after a brief illness with her beloved husband of 55 years, Bruce, by her side on December 5, 2024. (Gregory F. Doyle Funeral Home)



Jackson C. Philbrick, 79, of Orange, entered into rest on December 26, 2024. (West Haven Funeral Home)



James M. Swanson, 84, of Milford, beloved husband of 37 years to Sandra Swanson, passed away on December 27, 2024. (Cody-White Funeral Home)



Edmund J. Ramos, age 95, of Milford, CT, beloved husband of Andrea Ramos, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. (Adzima Funeral Home)



Patrick J. Vitale Jr., age 85, of Milford, beloved husband of Marceline Hatfield Vitale, died on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at Orange Healthcare Center. (A Briola Parkview Funeral Home)



Town of Orange Legal Notice

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec 7-394, there is on file for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk, the Auditors report for the Amity Regional School District #5 Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024.

Dated at Orange, Connecticut, the 2nd day of January 2025.

Mary Shaw
Orange Town Clerk

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